

Bishop Evans Tyree, D.D., M.D.

A. M. E. Church

Residence: Nashville, Tenn.

BISHOP TYREE presides over the conferences of Texas and Mexico. He was born of slave parents, in De Kalb County, Tenn., August 19, 1854.

He was sold twice with his mother, from whom he was never separated by slavery, and who still lives with him. In 1865, mother and son started out to try to live as free people, finding their first home in an old deserted hut, which they occupied by permission of the owner of the farm on which it stood.

He was converted and joined the church at twelve years of age, was licensed to preach at fourteen, joined the conference at eighteen, and was made elder at twenty-two. He studied in the public school by permission for a year until he was twenty-three, and then went to Central Tennessee College for six years, the last year in the Medical Department. He was graduated from the medical department at Louisville in 1894, with the degree of M.D.

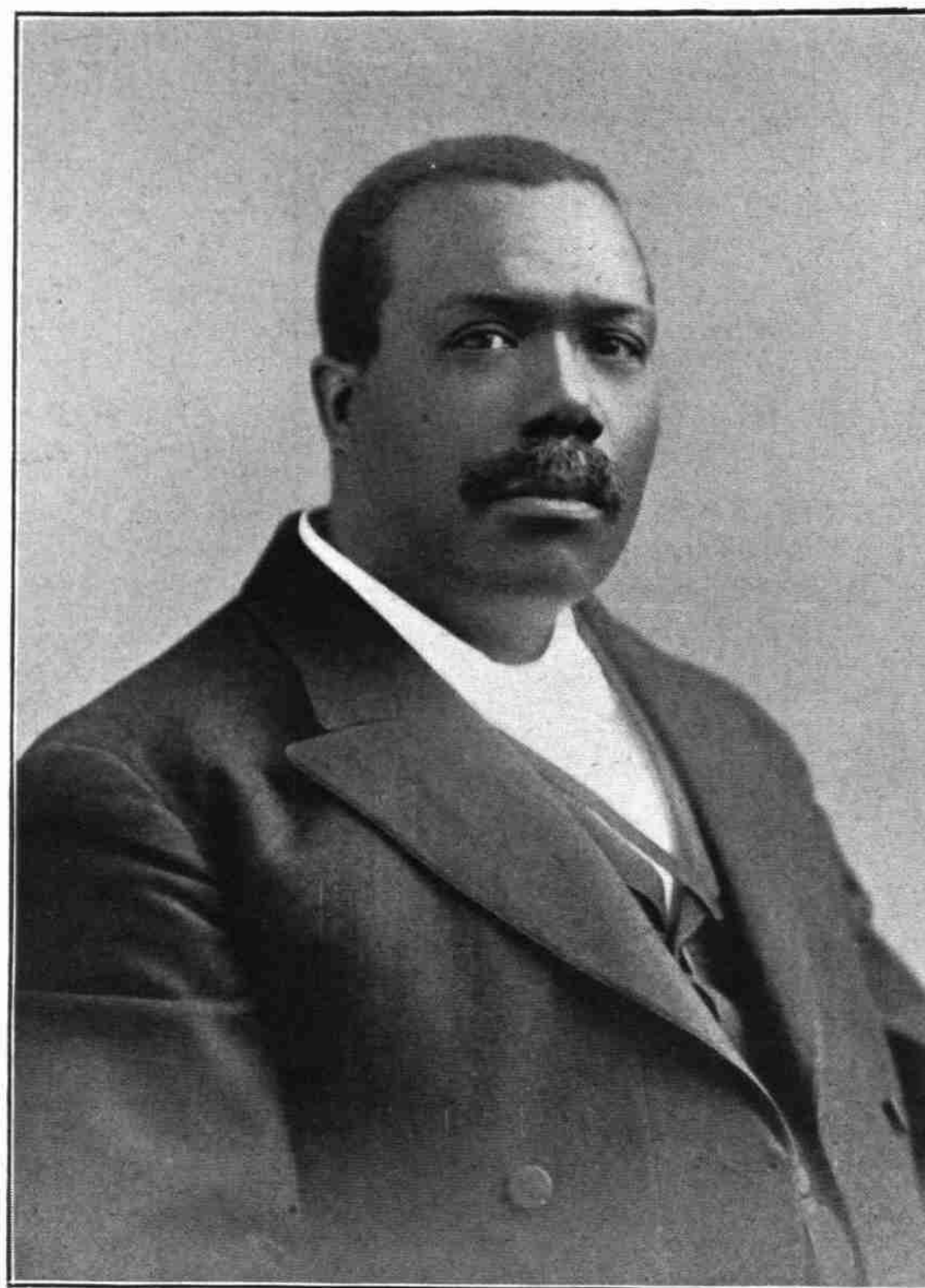
In 1900, at Columbus, Ohio, he was elected bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in whose service he had been a minister since 1872. He is serving his second quadrennium in charge of the Texas Conference, an unusual experience, but at the request of the people. He was a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference of Methodism in London, 1901.

Greatest Needs of the Negro Race **Bishop Evans Tyree, D.D., M.D.**

ALONG moral lines, the greatest need is a high standard of life in the home; a greater regard shown by children for their parents; strict rules by parents for their children, administered with love and kindness; habits of industry and truthfulness; the reading of good books and magazines; and last but not least, Christian education.

The basis for Christian education is the Bible. With the Bible in the home, constantly and systematically studied, the influence of that home will be for high standards of living.

The second need is that religious activity shall be a real, vital fact rather than a theory. Our people need to be taught the habit of punctuality in all matters of obligation, whether secular or ecclesiastical, and they should be trained to deal honestly with their fellowmen in all



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things, not on account of fear, but for righteousness' sake, and for the honor there is in honest dealing. Too many accept religion as a feeling. It is more than that. It is a business, and it deals with immortal souls.

Our people should be taught that intelligence comes from many sources and that the avenues of approach should be carefully guarded. Some one has wisely said: "Intelligence is a luxury, sometimes useful, sometimes fatal. It is a torch or firebrand according to the use one makes of it."

Our people ought to be taught to read the best books, to discover the best that comes to the surface in man, both as to words and deeds, and then make the most of it by putting it into practice. The best reading—the book of books—is the Bible. It is the best selling book the world has ever known, and more men, women, and children are reading and studying it to-day than ever before in the world's history. Where can you find stories, literature, poetry, as you find them in the Bible? The

stories of Ruth and Naomi, of Daniel, of David and Goliath, of Joseph, of Paul's shipwreck, and others, attract, interest, and inspire us, and I commend their reading to all our people. In Sunday-school, the instruction is given from the Bible. The multiplication of efficient Sunday-schools is the hope of the church and the hope of the race through Christian education.

It is difficult to get a majority of the colored youth to settle down to steady work. The city craze has seized many of them, and large numbers have left the farms to go to the cities, seeking easy employment. In many instances they fail to get what they want and so get out of good, regular habits. Again, many of them would be in the country to-day if they could remain there unmolested, but in many cases it is a great risk of life to try and live outside the cities or big towns. The town becomes in a sense a protection to them. In many cases it is a veritable trap. In the third place, they will be allowed to do menial labor, but when they begin to show efficiency as mechanics, they do not get a fair chance and are frequently not allowed to work at the trade for which they have been preparing themselves for years. I believe that employers should pay living wages for labor to all alike.